

The Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis—Under Executive Order 12866”)

12. On rollcall No. 390 I would have voted “no.”

(Cassidy Amendment to H.R. 4923, Energy and Water Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015, prohibiting the use of funds by the Department of Energy to apply the report entitled “Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Perspective on Exporting Liquefied Natural Gas from the United States” in any decision to export Liquefied Natural Gas from the U.S.)

13. On rollcall No. 391 I would have voted “no.”

(Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of both H.R. 5016 and H.R. 4718.)

14. On rollcall No. 392 I would have voted “no.”

(H. Res. 661, Rule providing for consideration of both H.R. 5016, Financial Services and General Government Appropriations, 2015; and H.R. 4718, To Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to Modify and Make Permanent Bonus Depreciation)

CELEBRATING SAN DIEGO'S 2014
LGBT Pride Festival

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the San Diego community in celebrating the 2014 San Diego LGBT Pride festival and parade.

From that historic night at Stonewall, 45 years ago, to California icon Harvey Milk, to the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell, and last year's overturning of DOMA and Prop 8—we have experienced uneven but unmistakable progress towards equality for our LGBT family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors.

In San Diego we have seen momentous contributions from the LGBT community—from The Center, an organization devoted to the care and well-being of the local LGBT community, where I was privileged to serve on the Board of Directors.

To my friend and City Council colleague Toni Atkins, recently elected the first San Diegan and openly lesbian Speaker of the California Assembly, and Todd Gloria who stepped in and stabilized our city in a time of crisis.

To local leaders like Robert Gleason who has been named the 2014 LGBT Pride Month Local Hero. Robert's tireless efforts and ability to build consensus helped create San Diego's LOST Community Leadership Council.

While we've made progress, establishing marriage equality in California and numerous other states across the country—a number that is growing—the fight for full equality is far from over.

Currently, there is no federal law that explicitly protects LGBT individuals from employment discrimination.

I am proud to be a strong and vocal supporter of LGBT civil rights, including a com-

prehensive Employment Non-Discrimination Act, to ensure that LGBT Americans in every state can live their lives openly without the fear of being fired from their jobs for who they are or who they love.

It is time for Congress to do its job and pass this bipartisan legislation. Thankfully there is progress on this front. A few months ago I sent President Obama a letter urging him to bar workplace discrimination by federal contractors.

I am proud that President Obama has decided to do just that and announced executive orders to protect LGBT federal employees and those working for federal contractors from workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

As we work toward full equality, I will continue to be a strong advocate for the rights of the LGBT community as I have been in the past. I hope you will stay engaged and active in this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing San Diego's LGBT community and look forward to celebrating with them during this year's Pride festival.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4923) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak on “H.R. 4923, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015,” under final consideration by the House.

I want to thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for their stewardship in bringing this legislation to the floor and for their commitment to preserving America's great natural environment and resources so that they can serve and be enjoyed by generations to come.

My service in the House of Representatives has focused on making sure that our nation is secure and prosperous. A central component of national security is the ability of national to remain energy independent and that our international ports continue to move goods into and out of the country safely and efficiently.

I appreciate bipartisan support of two Jackson Lee Amendments the first increased funding for the Office of Minority Economic Impact in the Department of Energy and the second reprograms funds for Department of Energy's departmental administration to increase support for environmental justice program activities.

Unfortunately, the bill contains a number of riders that are problematic:

Obstruction of EPA's ability to clarify and define navigable water and specifying which of our nation's waterways are covered under the Clean Water Act.

Permanently prohibits the Army Corps of Engineers from modifying the definition of “fill materials” to include debris and overburden from mining and excavation projects to make them subject to the Clean Water Act.

Allows people to carry firearms on all Corps of Engineering lands.

The bill also faces opposition by the Administration which means if it is passed in its current form it will not become law.

The Administration strongly objects to the funding level of \$1.8 billion provided in the bill for renewable energy, sustainable transportation, and energy efficiency programs, a \$546 million reduction below the FY 2015 Budget request. This reduced funding level will stifle Federal investment in innovative clean energy research and development (R&D) at a time of significant global competition and progress.

The Administration objects to funding reduction in the bill such as the \$40 million reduction from the FY 2015 Budget request that would reduce the number of grants to academic investigators and funding for staff at DOE laboratories working on fundamental discovery science and research that underpins advances in clean energy.

Further, this reduction would also affect access to world class facilities used by researchers from all sectors to conduct R&D. The bill funds the international fusion project ITER, at a level \$75 million above the FY 2015 Budget request. In light of schedule delays and management reforms underway, the Administration is concerned that the U.S. contributions would outweigh the readiness of the project.

The bill provides the Corps of Engineers' bill \$5.5 billion for works program, nearly \$1 billion above the FY 2015 Budget request. The FY 2015 Budget focuses on investments that would yield high economic and environmental returns or address a significant risk to public safety. The Administration encourages the Congress to fund the civil works program at the requested level. The funding increase for the civil works program is provided primarily by decreases in other core priorities, including clean energy. The Administration also urges the Congress to permit the Corps to commence new starts in FY 2015.

The Administration strongly objects to sections 105 and 106 of the bill, which would prevent the use of funds to address deficiencies and regulatory uncertainties related to CWA regulations designed to protect important aquatic resources while supporting economic development. Section 106 in particular would impact an important, ongoing Administration effort to provide regulatory clarity on which water bodies are covered by the CWA, which has been the subject of two Supreme Court cases in which the Court indicated the need for greater clarity regarding the statute's scope.

With less than 50 legislative days remaining, I ask that we carefully manage our time and energy to make sure that the bills we passed meet our obligations to the American public and can eventually become law.